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August 26, 2004  
DateMarian Christopher  
Marian ChristopherDocket No.: 524412000200  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Lee A. BULLA, Jr. et al.

Application No.: 09/696,801

Filed: October 25, 2000

For: GENE MINING SYSTEM AND METHOD

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Lori A. Clow, Ph.D.

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
GROUP ART UNIT 1631AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action herein, mailed 10 August 2004, time for response to which was set to expire 10 November 2004. Applicants appreciate the willingness of Examiner Clow to discuss proposed amendments to this case that would overcome the outstanding bases for rejection, both formal matters under 35 U.S.C. § 112m paragraph 2. As a result of a telephone interview on 26 August 2004, proposed language was submitted by e-mail and was tentatively approved by the Examiner. The proposed amendments to the claims below reflect this language.

sd-216887